The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VIII. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19, 1870. NO. 80.

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

WASHINGTON.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

Rival Schemes Before Congress—The Campaign in Georgia—R. R. Butler Arrested for Forgery—Improvements in the City—Sentiment of the House on the Abolition of the Income Tax to be Tested—Time for the Examination of Army Officers to be Extended—Piatt Denies that He Declined a Challenge—The Old Market House Fired by Incendiaries.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17, 1870.

Postal Telegraph.

There are now pending two bills establishing a postal telegraph system. One of these was introduced in the House by Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, and referred to the select Committee on Postal Telegraph, of which he is chairman. It provides for the appointment of a commission to appraise all the telegraph lines in the country, which shall be bought at the appraisal by the Government, and thereafter be operated by Government officials in connection with the Postoffice Department. The other bill is based on the scheme of Mr. Hubbard, of Boston, embodied in the bill passed by the Senate, and also referred by the House to the select committee on the subject. It provides for the transmission of telegraph letters by contract with a company, which shall make telegraph connection with the postoffices of the country, do its work under bond to the Government in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, and be subject to Government supervision in the matter of conducting business. This committee has considered both bills carefully, hearing arguments in the interest of all parties interested, and is ready to submit its conclusions to the House. The committee has not, however, been able to agree in favor of either system, but agreed yesterday that Mr. Washburn should report his own bill, while Mr. Palmer, of Iowa, will report the Senate—that is, the Hubbard—bill in a modified form. Mr. Dawes will support Mr. Palmer's report, while Messrs. Lawrence, Woodward and Perry are committed to neither side, holding themselves free to take whatever action may seem best when the matter comes before the House. Mr. Perry, who takes the place of Mr. Davis, of New York, on the committee, was not present when the matter was finally acted upon.

The Campaign in Georgia.

Attorney General Akerman left here last evening for Georgia, to take part in the political campaign now in progress there, and to look after the United States Senatorship from that State, for which position he is said to be a candidate. The fact of his departure on no rises to a rumor, which was current to-day, to the effect that he had resigned the Attorney Generalship. This rumor is a little premature, as he does not intend to resign until Congress reassembles after the holidays.

Roderick R. Butler

Was arrested to-day, on a warrant issued from the Criminal Court, in which he is charged with forgery in two cases. Before being brought into Court Butler was introduced to Judge Carttier, to whom he exhibited a power of attorney and chattel mortgage, executed under him authority for the transactions in question. The Court fixed his bail at $2,000, and Horace Maynard and W. B. Stokes went his security.

Improvements in the City.

The annual report of Washington City improvements for 1870 has just been published, and the exhibit made is very gratifying to citizens here. The total number of buildings erected was 3311, costing $3,207,198. The material used was mostly brick and stone, but little wood being used. Among the more noticeable structures are a freedmen's savings bank, costing $250,000; fifteen churches, costing respectively $80,000, $70,000 and $60,000 each; a charitable institution costing $150,000, and a building for the use of the United States Coast Survey, costing $15,000.

Schurz's Reply to Drake.

The following was the point made by Senator Schurz yesterday, in his reply to Drake, which was omitted in the Press report: "There are those in the Republican party who think they cannot conquer unless by some other means different from the great moral power of argument. There are those in the State of Missouri, I believe, who think that if we are knocked from under their feet, threw up their hands and exclaimed, 'all is lost.' That class of politicians are those who, in the face of the great responsibilities, great questions, great problems and great struggles are so fortuned by a sudden change of their own nothingness. The men who abolished disfranchisement in Missouri are not afraid of that. No, sir. All is not lost, but all is won. We are once more fighting for the good cause with a clear conscience.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1870.

Abolition of the Income Tax.

To-morrow Representative Kellogg, of Connecticut, will introduce a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into and report upon the expediency of abolishing the income tax, and he will endeavor to bring the House to a direct vote on the question, the object being to test the sentiment of the House on this matter.

The Army Retiring Board.

An effort will be made to-day to call up a joint resolution passed before adjournment on Thursday, extending the time for the examination of officers ordered before the Army Retiring Board. As the matter stands, a large number now available to have their names considered by the Board will, unless time is extended, be liable to muster out through no fault of their own. It is the desire of the War Department that the Board may be authorized to continue its labors.

Little Work this Week.

Little work is expected in the House this week. To-morrow there will be the usual Monday variety; Tuesday is set for the consideration of amnesty, and when that is disposed of the proposition of Lot Morrill on Manufactures for a centennial celebration in Philadelphia becomes the regular order. No quorum is expected for Thursday.

Did Not Decline a Challenge.

Colonel Doan Platt denies that he declined any challenge from Clinton Rice, as it has been widely asserted he did, or that he had anything to do with the arrest of Rice.

Market House Burned.

The old market house, on the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventh street, long one of the prominent eye-sores of the city, was burned early this morning. It was the largest establishment of the kind in this city, covering two entire blocks. The loss, independent of the main building, is about $250,000, which falls upon a class of small dealers. The fire broke out in three or four different parts of the building at the same time, and was without question the work of incendiaries. The matter excites much comment, and in connection with it it is remembered that the new market company, chartered by Congress to erect a building on the site of the old one, was by the terms of incorporation, required to purchase the buildings and fixtures of the present occupants of stalls at prices to be determined by persons hereafter selected. The Company was having considerable opposition from butchers about their market men, and now engage payment of a large sum, and the delay occasioned by the opposition will be ended.

Postal Changes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17, 1870.

POSTAL CHANGES.

Pennsylvania—McClintockville, Venango county, John Pinkerton; Ezypt, Lehigh county, Wm. Koch, vice M. H. Stevenson's resigned; Fairview, Lancaster county, Samuel D. Hawkins, Postmaster, *vice* J. L. Terrill, superseded; Tower City, Schuylkill county, Henry W. Snyder, Postmaster, *vice* John W. Martin, resigned; Wind-ham, Bradford county, Daniel Kyle, Postmaster, *vice* Wm. Kuykendall, resigned; Gray's Valley, Tioga county, Lafayette Gray, Postmaster, *vice* Joseph Strange, resigned; Joliet, Schuylkill county, Wm. Heeber, Postmaster, *vice* E. F. Wisel, resigned; Discontinued—Homer, Potter county. Route No. 2,932, Clearfield to Penfield, J. A. McBride, contractor. Service is increased one trip per week from 1st of January, and contractor allowed $175 per annum extra, commencing and ending as above.

Postmasters Appointed.—James F. Weidman, at Bangor, Northampton county, *vice* J. Buzzard, resigned; John Overmiller at Logansville, York county, *vice* William H. Snyder, resigned; Josiah E. Cutting, at De Golier, McKean county, *vice* N. De Golier, resigned; William Grant, Postmaster at McKean, Erie county, *vice* W. Henry Shattuck, resigned; William Chandler, Bedford, Bedford county, *vice* W. C. Adams, moved away.

West Virginia—The office at Ben's Run, Tyler county, is discontinued.

STRUGGLE FOR UNITED STATES SENATORSHIPS.

Hon. John A. Logan, of Illinois, has gone home to look after his chances of election to the United States Senate, in place of Senator Yates, whose term expires next March. General Logan's friends have claim to know that he is sure to be elected.

Hon. Sidney Clarke, member of the House from Kansas, is the candidate for United States Senator of the anti-land subsidy wing of the Republican party in his State, while Hon. E. G. Ross, the present incumbent, is championed by the railroad companies. Both candidates are Republicans. Mr. Clarke is claimed to have a majority of the people of his State, while Ross has unquestionably the strongest money influence. The election takes place next month.

THE REPORT OF MR. BOUTWELL'S INTENTION TO RESIGN.

It appears that the statement was first set afloat by persons connected with the Pacific Railway, with the sole view of affecting Pacific Railroad stocks, which have been very much depressed since Secretary Boutwell took his firm stand of making those roads pay up the interest on their bonds by paying into the all payments for the transportation of all Government freights. This lobby, which is known as strong numbers, have industriously circulated all manner of reports against the Secretary, with a view, if possible, to create an ill feeling between him and the President, and make the stockholders of those roads believe he would soon go out of the Cabinet. This is the whole story, but unfortunately for themselves, reasons were assigned for Mr. Boutwell's supposed retirement which entirely misrepresented his views and placed him as being opposed to measures which he really favors. One week that he was opposed to the purchase of San Domingo, but he really is a warm advocate of the President's proposition and gives it his earnest support.

MINISTER WASHBURNE AT THE BESIEGED CAPITAL.

It may not be generally known that a weekly mail is received at the State Department from Minister Washburne in Paris. This mail is sent sealed through the Prussian lines by Count Bismarck, who also permits one to be sent back to Mr. Washburne in return. The last letters were received from Mr. Washburne, dated November 20, in which he says he will probably remain in the besieged city. Nearly all the foreign ministers have been withdrawn, either voluntarily or else from being recalled by their governments. Mr. Washburne says he has declined to do so, his letter was written that the Swiss Minister and himself will probably be the only ones remaining in Paris.

SNUBBED.

Secretary Fish administered a severe rebuke to the Haytien Minister the other day. It appears that the Haytien Minister wrote to Secretary Fish complaining of the President's allusion to the Island of San Domingo in his recent annual message. Secretary Fish returned the letter, with a brief note saying the correspondence of a foreign nation had no right, in his official capacity, to criticise or interfere with a message of the Chief Magistrate of the United States to his own people, and that his letter was impertinent and insulting, and that he would have no communication with him until an apology was offered.

REDUCING THE ARMY.

Another list of about seventy unassigned officers assigned to duty will be published January 31, and this will complete the names of the unassigned officers who are to be retained in the service. Those who will be dropped from the rolls, except those who may be placed on the retired list by the President, A number of the officers will appear before the Examining or Board of Appeal, as it is called, are resigning, having discovered that their cases are hopeless. Those who resign receive one year's extra pay.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE TAX ON DISTILLED SPIRITS.

The western distillers having become alarmed at the prospect of Congress passing Mr. Kelley's bill to abolish the revenue bureau and appoint a new, mild internal and tobacco tax bureau of revenue collections, have appeared here in force. They say distillers and dealers who have large stocks of tax-paid goods on hand are holding them at firm prices, and working hard for an increase of the tax to a dollar a gallon. They say a few of the low tax men in Congress have already gone over to that view, and will advocate the change. Among those persons named as being in favor of increasing the tax is Mr. Kelley. The distillers really believe the movement will come near success. They say it will put a million dollars in the coffers of each of twelve firms they can name, if the tax is increased. In answer to these statements and fears, it may be positively stated that the Forty-first Congress *will not increase* the tax on spirits. It has been held during this entire Congress by nearly every member of the two ruling committees, and by the prominent members of both Houses, that a high tax on whisky is simply a premium on illicit distillation, and it is shown that at 50 cents a gallon more tax is being collected than when the rate was $2 per gallon. There is no good reason for believing that the opinions of these gentlemen have undergone a change, except in the case of Mr. Kelley. It may be possible that he believes he has discovered a plan whereby a $1 tax can be faithfully collected. The distillers mentioned say that Philadelphia dealers are urging Mr. Kelley on, they, his constituents, having very large quantities of tax-paid spirits in store.

THE COMMITTEE ON POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

It is said by one of the members of the House Select Committee on Postal Telegraph, that the entire committee are of the opinion that the time has come for the Government to intervene in some form, but there is a difference as to the method or means by which this should be done. Mr. Washburne, the Chairman, who has obtained the unanimous consent of the committee, will report his bill probably when that committee shall again be called, but with some changes from that of last session. The most essential alteration is in regard to the appraisement of telegraph property, which it is proposed the Government shall require from their respective companies.

PACIFIC RAILROAD BONDS.

The Attorney General has rendered an opinion to Secretary Boutwell concerning the liability of the Pacific railroads to pay their interest on Government bonds semi-annually, in which he maintains that the said roads must pay the interest as fast as the Government pays it.

The effect of this decision will be to delay any further cash payments to roads for transportation until the balance of the interest overdue is cancelled. Measures will be at once adopted to secure all the Government transportation over the railroads which is now sent by steamboat lines, regardless of transportation rates.

MR. VANCE'S CHANCES.

The Senator elect from North Carolina, Governor Vance, has written here to ascertain what chance there is for his being admitted to the Senate. He has received the reply that there is no chance whatever, and that it will be useless for him to present himself.

THE SAN DOMINGO CASE.

The President has indicated that, in case Congress agrees to Morton's resolution about San Domingo he will send as one of the commissioners Fred. Douglass.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHING.

The Select Committee on Postal Telegraph is in session to-day hearing arguments from Mr. Orton, of the Western Union Company, and others.

HARMSBURG, PA.

A Man Crushed to Death at the Crawford Well.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARMSBURG, PA., December 17, 1870.

A man whose name we have been unable to learn was instantly killed last evening, about half past seven o'clock, at the Crawford well, situated on the Robinson farm, about one mile north of Parker's Landing. He was contractor for putting down the well, and while he was engaged in fastening the sides of the drilling tools, had his arm caught in the ball when it was drawn round with the cable and instantly crushed to death. He resided a short distance below Emberton and leaves a wife and one child.

ORRVILLE, O.

Body Identified—An Insane German.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ORRVILLE, O., December 17, 1870.

The remains of the man found dead on the farm of Mr. Schick were taken to Holmes county this evening. It has been ascertained that he was a German, having been in this country about six months. He was insane at the time he left his companions in Holmes county. He had no relatives in this country. His clothes were found over one mile from the place where he died.

CLARION, PA.

Building Containing a Grist Mill, Machine Shop and Iron Foundry Burned Loss $15,000.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CLARION, PA., December 17, 1870.

A building owned by the Humphrey estate, in Strattonville, containing a grist mill, machine shop and iron foundry, occupied by James McNutt, was totally consumed by fire last night. Loss six thousand dollars; insurance three thousand seven hundred on stock.

SHAMBURG, PA.

Patterson & Dickey's Engine Houses Burned.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SHAMBURG, December 17, 1870.

About 6:30 this evening Patterson & Dickey's double and single engine houses, on the Chicago tract, East Shamburg, caught fire from the gas jet used to thaw the engines. Both engine houses were consumed. No other damage is reported.

POLITICAL.

MEMPHIS, December 17.—It is reported that Smith will contest the election of Vaughan in this Congressional District.

NEW YORK, December 17.—The Union Republican General Committee met in the Assembly Chamber, City Hall, to-night. In this opening speech he said the meeting had been called for the purpose of concentration, and to consider the best plan by which unity of action had arrived. On motion of Benj. F. Manierre, a committee was appointed to nominate officers for the year 1871, to be elected January 5th. D. D. Conover, T. R. Stewart, Jas. Gallway, V. Rufus Andrews and Benj. Manierre, the committee retired and reported the following nominations: For President, Hiram Gray; first vice president, Wm. Wilson; secretary; second, Enoch S. Fancher; Recording Secretary, Geo. F. Nesbitt; Corresponding Secretary, Andrew W. Legett; Treasurer, Ira Miles. The report was unanimously adopted. A committee of seven was appointed to revise the by-laws.

THE INDIANS.

The Great Indian Council at Ocmulgee—The Indian Confederacy—Return of Indian Commissioners.

ST. LOUIS, December 17.—The *Republican* has a special from Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, of the 15th, as follows; Special Indian Commissioners Campbell, Leland and Butler have returned from the Ocmulgee council ground where they have been in attendance on the great Indian Council. Matters there are progressing harmoniously, and there is every prospect that a new government will be organized of the confederated nations and tribes in the Indian Territory. On the 11th inst., the council unanimously adopted the Constitution and the organization of a Government prepared in its form and precisely consistent with precedents existing in the United States. The report was adopted by a vote of forty-eight to three, those voting against it being the Seminoles, who still hesitate.

A committee of twelve was then appointed with Wm. P. Ross, of the Cherokees, as chairman, to draft a constitution for the Indian confederacy. The committee met and divided into four sub-committees, on bill of rights and executive, legislative and judicial departments. They are earnestly engaged in their several deliberations, and expected to report in a few days, so that their work can be adopted at the general council, which is to continue ten days.

The Commissioners were invited to address the council yesterday, and did so in behalf of the country. They were heartily received and complimentary resolutions, thanking them for their visit, were unanimously passed. The Commissioners will return to Fort Gibson, General Parker, next day addressed the General Council, gave a history of the causes that led to the incorporation in all the treaties of 1866 authority to call this council; he said that the object was to form a good confederation of all the tribes resident in the Indian country, a government exclusively of Indians, ultimately to become one of the States of the Union; that Congress would annually make appropriations to pay expenses; that courts of justice should be established, so that citizens of the Indian Territory should not be dragged to Van Buren to be tried on minor charges. He advised them to form a unity of interest against the encroachments of white men, pressing on them from the north, east and south, and gave them words of encouragement as to the progress they had made in the arts of civilization.

The visit of the gentlemen has had a most happy effect. The Confederate Government embraces the following tribes and nations, viz.: Cherokees, Choctaws, Muskokee or Creeks, Seminoles, Eastern Pawnees, Quapaws, Senecas, Wyandottes, Confederate Peorias, Sacs and Foxes, and absentee Pawnees, Great and Little Osages, Semiques and Chickasaws. Delegates from all the above tribes are represented in the council, and some are present from the wild tribes.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 17, 1870.

Passed through this city to-day *en route* to Gettysburg, where he will meet the Government Engineers and point out to them the positions of the various forts and batteries at the time of the several battles there, which have since become obliterated.

FRAUDULENT INSURANCE BUSINESS.

A number of parties have been operating here for a long time in the fraudulent insurance business. They insured property for various amounts from one thousand to ten thousand dollars for as low as one-fourth per cent. premium. Companies as the Ninth National of Elizabeth, Tontine of Communipaw and the Mutual Benefit, New Jersey. The object in existence these companies have is in the scheming brains of self-constituted agents. This morning one of the swindling gentry was committed to jail. It is believed the same parties have been operating in other parts of the country.

NEW YORK, December 18, 1870.

DEPARTURE OF THE GUERRIERE.

The United States Frigate Guerriere sailed yesterday at Lisbon, where she will probably become flagship of Admiral Boggs, who will soon go out on a Cunard steamer to relieve Admiral Gleason in command of the European squadron. The Guerriere is to have a quick passage under sail, and is expected to reach Funda in fifteen days and Lisbon in twenty-five days. Just before departure, yesterday, a marriage ceremony was performed by the chaplain in the Admiral's cabin, between one of the seamen and a Brooklyn lady. The Spanish officers provided an elegant entertainment in honor of the event.

ARMS FOR CUBA.

The brig La Creole cleared yesterday for Curacoa, with one hundred cases muskets and a quantity of war material, supposed to be destined for Cuba.

ORPHAN AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.

The Catholic Bishop Bailey, of Newark, has purchased for $50,000 Secaucus no race course as a site for an orphan and reformatory institution for his Diocese.

BAILED.

Owen McKenna, the flagman through whose carelessness a train was plunged through an open draw bridge at Ghashing, last week has been bailed in $5,000 to await the action of the Grand Jury.

IMMIGRANTS.

The number of immigrants last week were 1,946.

DEATH OF CAPT. N. R. NORTON.

Captain Norris Randal Norton, a well known writer for the press, and for some time assistant city editor of the *Tribune*, died in this city this evening. He was formerly connected with the Cincinnati press, and during the war commanded a company in the Fifth Ohio cavalry. He served with distinction, and was seriously wounded at the siege of Corinth. At the time of his death he was chief clerk in the Board of Health, in which position he contributed numerous valuable hygienic articles to the leading dailies of the city.

THE WAR.

ENGAGEMENT NEAR BLOIS.

A VICTORY FOR THE FRENCH CLAIMED.

Another Sortie from Paris.

Complete Investment of Versailles.

FRENCH PORTS TO BE BLOCKADED.

Baden Ratifies the Annexation Treaty.

FRANCE.

Engagement Near Blois.

Special to the Herald.]

TOURS, December 16.—An engagement between the main body of General Chanzy's army and the Prussians occurred yesterday near Blois. The Prussians were repulsed, but the result is not decisive.

Another Sortie from Paris.

LILLE, December 16.—It is rumored that another sortie has been made from Paris, which accounts for the rapid withdrawal of the German forces from this region. It is said the French came out from behind their fortifications in immense force, and have already completely invested Versailles. Fighting is now going on in the direction of Abbeville.

The Delay in the Bombardment—Scarcity of Food in German Camps.

VERSAILLES, December 14.—Delay in the bombardment of Paris is caused partly by a quarrel between Generals Blumenthal and Von Kamecke, the latter wished to use the army horses to bring up the guns, while the former insisted that it was impossible to spare them. Von Roon finally yielded, and four hundred horses are now going from Germany to drag the siege guns from the railway terminus.

The condition of the roads is fearful. Food is very scarce in the German camps, and some troops have been without meat three days.

Prussian Victory at Longeau.

DIJON, December 17, *via* BERLIN.—The Prussians attacked the French near Longeau and drove them into the fortress. The French loss was 300.

The military commander of Tours has been released for his precipitate evacuation of that city.

The Germans Retreating all Along the Loire—Havre to be Defended to the Last.

BORDEAUX, December 17.—The Prussians did not attack Gen. Chanzy yesterday as was expected. The forces under Chanzy have received heavy reinforcements.

It is understood now that the four Generals commanding the main divisions of the Army of the Loire, Chanzy, Bourbaki, Joures and Jaurerelerry, have concerted plans for a simultaneous advance; all have been in communication.

The Germans are retreating all along the valley of the Loire.

The French Government has dismissed General Sol from the service. The charge against him was that he purposely left Orleans in the hands of the enemy, guns and other material of war, though no enemy had appeared near the city. The Government, in accordance with law which condemns to death Generals who too hastily surrender their commands, will order an inquiry into the capitulation of Strasburg and Metz. As regards General Uhrich, the proceeding is a mere matter of formality, as it is known that the investigation will be a serious affair.

The National forces have gained fresh advantages. The Prussians now appear to be concentrating near Quebec to attack Havre. The latter place has been fortified on the land side, and a strong garrison and will be defended to the last. Another effort is being made by the Germans to send troops going to the front. The men gave enthusiastic cries of *Vive la Republique*, as they marched past the Hotel de Ville ministry. Gambetta is still with the army of the Loire.

German Accounts of the Recent Sorties—Bismarck Urges Breaking up the Confederation of the Republican Government.

Success of the Prussian Loan—The Charges Against Luxemburg.

BERLIN, December 17.—The German accounts of the recent sorties which have been made are entirely successful, as far as he went. He held the Peninsula of St. Maur against the German attempts to recover it; and retired after ascertaining the fallure of Bourbaki's plans, and after having effected on account of the line being weakened, and fear the success of a massed sortie. The demand for the loan subscription of Paris contributions to the present war have been held. Moltke fears the formation of a large army in the south, it being further away, and there being more difficulty in reaching it. He is also willing to allow Frederick Charles to go too far from Paris.

Bismarck is pressing energetically the political movement to destroy the Republican Government. Peace is now impossible, and he is trying hard to make a coalition with the Emperor or any other representative who is willing and able to make terms.

The Federal submission of the Luxemburg Government to Bismarck's overbearing demands in regard to Luxemburg has strengthened the feeling against the latter country. Granville, it is said, opposed humiliation.

The *Standard* declares the action of England is an abdication as a European power. The Ministers are accused of cowardice, bowing to guidance from Bismarck's letter and their own replies. Public attack is anticipated on the meeting of Parliament, and the downfall of the ministry is imminent.

ENGLAND.

The Luxemburg Controversy.

LONDON, December 17.—The Prussian Government charges that the Government of Luxemburg keeps open his office for the re-enlistment of fugitives from the French army.

The Proposed Conference.

Special to the World.]

LONDON, December 17.—The conference will meet before Christmas. France will be represented by M. Thiers, M. Tissard, former Charge D'Affairs at Constantinople, is in London.

French Gunboats Cruising Between Cherbourg and Havre.

LONDON, December 17.—French gunboats are cruising between Cherbourg and Havre. No Prussians have appeared near either port.

Gen. Ducrot's Sortie—Affairs in Paris.

Special to the Herald.]

LONDON, December 17.—Dates from Paris of the 11th state that the sortie by General Ducrot was satisfactory, and has demonstrated where the Germans are weak. General Ducrot is confident of being able to break through the German lines at the proper moment. His active army in the field is in good health and spirits, is well fed, and is 200,000 strong. Preparations are making for another sortie on a large scale. Some of the theaters have been reopened, and it is expected others will be shortly. This is a beneficial effect, and besides, will relieve the monotony of the ordinary round of daily life. Goods are plentiful and street cries are numerous. Fresh horses at any rate have not been eaten.

The town is quiet, and the truth is that fresh meat, eggs, fish and poultry are gone, but the supply of horse meat will last two months, of bread, wine and cheese four months, and of salt meat at least from two months.

Gen. Trochu has taken possession of all the food and wines, and the population are now supplied by a military commissariat the same as soldiers.

A sortie in force of 40,000 men is talked of. The reverses at Orleans have not disturbed the equanimity of Parisians. They look upon the long service in depleting the force of the besiegers. Every Parisian is armed, and the city can hold out eight months longer without assistance. The inhumanity is large, but not enough to create alarm. There are no epidemics nor deaths from starvation or want.

The outside works have been pushed forward, which has compelled an enlargement of the line of their several defenses, and an extension of the army wall, or in the field. From the works the marksmen command the whole roads, and the German positions have been enormously strengthened, but they feel the scarcity of men.

BELGIUM.

French National Debt.

BRUSSELS, December 18.—The Provisional French Government advertises the payment of the January interest on the national debt.

PRUSSIA.

Redemption of the Scheldt Dues.

BERLIN, December 16.—The Mecklenburg diet has rejected the project submitted by the government for the payment of the dues on the Scheldt, and thereby the redemption of the Scheldt dues. Resolves providing for the payment of 14,000 francs were, however, adopted, leaving the remainder of the 28,000 francs to be paid by the Hanse towns.

Annexation Treaty Ratified.

CARLSRUHE, December 12.—The Baden Chamber has ratified the treaty making for the annexation of the state to the German Confederation.

Success of the Prussian Loan—The Charges Against Luxemburg.

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EASTERN QUESTION.

Delay of the French Government in Acceding to the London Conference.

LONDON, December 16.—It is said that the delay on the part of the French Government in acceding to the London Conference is due wholly to the difficulty of communication between Bordeaux and Paris.

The Triumph of the Peace Party.

LONDON, December 17.—The Journals to-day, referring to the triumph of the peace party in the Assembly, say that the Government has signed England's abdication as a great power.

Aid for French and German Non-Combatants.

CINCINNATI, December 18.—A movement began today among the Society of Friends of this city for the relief of the non-combatants of France and Germany.

NEW MEXICO.

Horrible Tragedy at El Paso, Texas—New Gold Mines Discovered—The Weather.

SANTE FE, N. M., December 18.—The *Daily Post* of the 16th has full particulars of a horrible tragedy which took place at El Paso, Texas, on the 7th inst. It appears that Senator Fountain got into a dispute with B. F. Williams, a lawyer, who fired a revolver at him twice, severely but not dangerously wounding him. Williams then fled to the corner, where Judge Gaylord, a Clerk, of the Twenty-fifth Texas District, with a posse of men followed and captured him. He was taken to the jail and shot through a double barreled gun and Judge Clark through the heart, killing him instantly. Judge Clark was one of the State Police, then fired at Williams and killed him instantly. Great excitement prevailed, and the feeling is strong against Williams. Judge Clark's funeral was the most imposing ever witnessed in El Paso.

The *Post's* Chihuahua, Mexico, correspondent gives a glowing account of the newly discovered placer mines near Chihuahua, and says they are even richer than expected. Twelve men in eight hours washed out over thirty-seven ounces of gold in one day. The next day they got five hundred dollars, and have averaged over three hundred dollars per day. Great excitement prevails, and a great rush is being made to the new mines.

About four inches of snow has fallen within the last twenty-four hours.

LAWYER AND CLIENT.

IMPORTANT CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT.

The Points at Issue—The Rights of a Lawyer—Liens for Charges on Papers in His Hands—Legality of Contingent Fees—When the Court Will Interfere Between Lawyer and Client.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1870.

A case of considerable public interest, and of much importance to the legal profession, was heard at full length in the Supreme Court yesterday, and the decision will be forthcoming this week. The matters involved are as follows: In the original case in the Supreme Court, entitled "Texas vs. White et al., Mr. Durant, for the State of Texas, procured a rule upon Judge Paschal to show cause why he should not pay into Court, for the State aforesaid, the sum of $47,500, moneys received by him as counsel for the State in the above entitled cause. In answer Paschal set forth that in 1865 he was retained by Governor Hamilton, then Governor of the State of Texas, to pursue and recover $500,000 worth of United States indemnity bonds received by Texas from the United States for public lands when annexed. When the war broke out these bonds were carried from the State by the rebels; $300,000 worth found their way to England, and were negotiated, while the balance were uttered in the usual channels by White and others. From September, 1865, until February, 1870, when dismissed from the case by the Governor, Judge Paschal devoted a large share of his time, paying all his expenses, to the prosecution of various suits which he was obliged to commence to recover the bonds. The cause above spoken of he was successful in, and realized therefrom the $47,500 mentioned in the rule, and for which he was asked to account. Out of this sum he had expended over $13,000 for assistant counsel and other disbursements, and had undertaken other causes to a point at which an arrangement had been entered into between himself and the holders of other bonds, wherein they were to pay him $50,000 to realize them all, when he was dismissed from the business. Judge Paschal claims that he had a special agreement with Governor Hamilton for a contingent fee of twenty-two and a half per cent. of the bonds amounted realized, and upon the order referred to turn over the whole moneys collected, without reference to his disbursements or his claims for fees. His counsel argued that he had a lien upon the money and papers for his charges and fees; also that Texas was indebted to him in the sum of $37,500 for drawing and publishing the State law reports, and $1,500 for attorney's fees in a former case, which the State refused to pay. He claimed a right to hold the funds until he settle the question under what circumstances it will interfere between a lawyer and his client, and the legality of contingent fees. In the case of Texas against George Washington Co., in the Supreme Court, the bonds carried to Maryland. There is also a rule on Paschal to show cause why his name should not be stricken off as counsel for plaintiff. This case comes up to-morrow and involves the same principles as the above.

NEWS SUMMARY

BY TELEGRAPH.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The "Examiner" on the Relations Between the United States and Great Britain—Guinea to be Ceded to Holland, Railway Collision at Eolton, England—Loss of the Bark Trovatore, with her Captain, Wife and Child and Fourteen of her Crew, &c., &c.

French Ports to be Blockaded.

LONDON, December 17.—The French ports of Fecamp, Dieppe and Havre are to be blockaded.

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It is reported that negotiations are pending for the cession of Guiana to Holland.

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LONDON, December 17.—The Queen's speech will recommend the appointment of a royal commission to examine into the fishery question, in order to settle upon the terms that may prove acceptable to America.

Founder ed in the Mediterranean.

CATTARO, December 16, *via* LONDON.—Her Majesty's steamer Psyche, of the British eclipse expedition, foundered in the Mediterranean. All on board were safely landed, and the scientific instruments saved.

Aosta.

FLORENCE, December 16.—The King elect of Spain will sail on Monday next for Barcelona.

The New Greek Cabinet.

ATHENS, December 16, *via* LONDON.—The new Greek Cabinet is composed as follows: Commodores, President of the Council and Minister of Marine; Bozzaries, Minister of War; Sotiropoulis, Minister of Finance; Christofanlas, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Amargios, Minister of Education.

Railway Collision.

LONDON, December 17.—A railway collision occurred last night near Bolton. The engineer was killed, and a fireman badly scalded.

Sinking of the Trovatore.

NAPLES, December 17.—Four of the crew of the bark Trovatore have been picked up off Cape Clamonte. The vessel capsized, and her captain, his wife and thirteen of the crew were drowned.

Steamer Ashore.

GLASGOW, December 17.—The steamship Australian, from New York for this port, was signalled off Moville yesterday.

LONDONDERRY, December 17.—The steamship Australian, from Quebec for Liverpool, has arrived.

LONDON, December 17.—The *Star*, from New York December 3d for Bremen, has arrived in Great Ormsby harbor.

The Markets.

LONDON, December 17.—Tallow 44s 6d@44s 9d.

INVASION OF PAPAL DOMINIONS.

Demonstration at Covington to Protest Against the Occupation of the Papal Dominions by King Victor Emanuel—Meeting at Evansville, Ind.

CINCINNATI, December 18.—A large demonstration occurred in this city to-day to protest against the invasion of the Papal Dominions by King Victor Emanuel. Fully five thousand persons were in the procession, with eight bands of music. An organization was effected at the cathedral, after which a grand procession marched through the principal municipitous, criminal attack upon civil society and nefarious robbery; the temporal possessions of the Holy See were held for the common good of the Catholic orld everywhere, and the Sovereign Pontiff could neither alienate or surrender them; that the spoliation of the Holy See was an outrageous act of injustice, perpetrated on the Catholic Church.

The protest sets fourth specifically the injurious effects that the following acts, concluding with the statement that it would reduce the Catholic Church, the nursing mother of saints and freemen to a condition of abject slavery.

In conclusion it assures the Pope their loyalty to the Holy See is unalterable and indefeasible.

EVANSVILLE, December 18.—The German Catholics of this city held a large meeting to-night, and denounced the late Government ownership of Internal Revenue, the Pennsylvanians are more united and determined than ever upon this change, although it does not appear that any positive programme has as yet been fixed upon.

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The Daily Commercial.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1870.

IN APPLYING the COMMERCIAL to a new typographical suit this morning, we avail ourselves of the occasion to say, that at no time has the patronage of the paper been as large or the business in every respect as satisfactory as at present. It is not only firmly rooted, but constantly increasing—a state of things which we interpret to mean that the public is ever ready to support independent and intelligent journalism.

THE contest in the First Senatorial District, Philadelphia, is becoming warm. The election takes place to-morrow, and both parties are putting forth an unusual effort. The usual Republican majority is about one thousand. On the result depends the political complexion of the Senate, and the Democracy are bringing all their peculiar tactics to bear. We expect to hear of gross irregularities and a contest before the Senate on the seat may be the result.

ALTHOUGH he is not a candidate by his own motion Secretary ROBESON may be elected United States Senator from New Jersey, he being the choice, it is said, of MR. CATTELL and MR. FRELINGHUYSEN. In the event of his election, there is a probable suggestion that MR. SCHOFIELD, who is Chairman of the present House Committee on Naval Affairs, will be appointed Secretary of the Navy, and thus will the eternal clamor about Pennsylvania having a cabinet representative be ended—not however, to the satisfaction of MR. FORNEY, and not exactly as MR. CAMERON would like to have it. It would be well to remember, however, that this is only in the dim distance.

IT is regarded as most probable that F. P. Blair, Jr., will be chosen by the Legislature of Missouri as the successor of C. D. Drake, in the United States Senate. Missouri contains probably no better man for the place. A gentleman of culture, of thoroughly Democratic principles, and superior ability, Mr. Blair would prove one of the ablest Senators that Missouri has had since Mr. Benton.—*Chicago Times.*

It will ever remain a mystery why DRAKE should get a life time office at the expense of bringing BLAIR into the Senate. It seems that DRAKE rather gloried in the prospect of having such a successor, as though the SENATE bolt could be held responsible. The plain duty of DRAKE was to hold on under such a prospect, and we wish the President had refused to appoint him, notwithstanding the promise to do so. The appointment simply gives effect to the irregularities in Missouri at the recent election.

THE Finance Committee of the United States Senate have come to the conclusion to report against the repeal of the Income tax, and in this, it is said, they are supported by Secretary BOUTWELL. The tenacity with which the almost unanimous verdict of the country on this question is resisted by the Senate and the Secretary, is not a little remarkable. The tax itself is scarcely worth the expense of collecting and can be safely omitted; and it would appear that something more—or less—than a clear view of what is sound public policy is at the bottom of the opposition which repeal experiences. The President has evidently receded from the support which at the former session he gave the Senate and the Secretary in this respect. It is to be added that notwithstanding this extraordinary holding out against the public demand, it is highly probable that the tax will be abolished at the present session.

IN the list of names mentioned in connection with Cabinet possibilities are those of EX-Governor HAWLEY, of Connecticut, and MR. CLEWES, the New York banker. It is said in this connection that Gen. BUTLER is willing enough to foster the preference which MR. BOUTWELL is said to give to a seat in the Senate to his present one in the Cabinet. The General has been quietly trying to find some one who will contest WILSON'S election, but those who are near enough to speak understandingly say that Senator WILSON need feel no great anxiety on this score. As for GOV. HAWLEY, he will always prove a good man anywhere you place him. It is well enough to remark concerning MR. BOUTWELL, that there is probably a shade of truth in the speculations which contemplate his going out of the Cabinet. The vote of the House of Representatives, virtually condemning his theory of taxation and rapid payment of the National debt, has no doubt arrested the Secretary's attention. Herein, rather than in any mere personal jealousies or aspirations for the Presidency, will probably be found the cause, as much as in anything, of the Secretary's willingness to retire; more especially as the President is understood to be in sympathy with the spirit and purpose of the House resolution.

A WASHINGTON correspondent, usually accurate in his information touching affairs at the Capital, concludes some speculations on the Cabinet rumors which have been afloat for some days as follows:

In accordance with the desire of prominent Republicans in both Houses, no change will be made at present, such a reputo being regarded by them as a disintegration of the Presidential party in the forthcoming and a serious blow to the Republican party. There is, however, a moral certainty that a change in the Treasury Department will be made at no distant day.

While MR. BOUTWELL has not been and is not now, in all respects in perfect accord with public sentiment as it has from time to time found expression in and out of Congress, it is not to be doubted that his withdrawal from the Treasury Department would be quite generally regretted. It would be a loss to the Administration—the filling of his place would devolve on the President a difficult task. Still more would MR. BOUTWELL'S withdrawal be regretted if it were in obedience to the necessities of factions seeking to recast the Cabinet in their own or some special interest. We can conceive of nothing more threatening to the "political future" of the President or more likely to inflict a "serious blow" on the Republican party than this would be. Good men everywhere feel a deep concern in view of the existence of such a purpose, and few things would tend so much to promote confidence and remove doubts as the knowledge that no design of this kind had the slightest chance of success.

CRUELTY OF CASTE.

American Germans, drawn by benevolence or curiosity to the Fatherland during the present war, are frequently much shocked and disgusted with the manner in which the common soldiers are treated. As one such visitor has said: "Before battle the soldiers are regarded as brave men; after battle as *canaille*." Even while in serviceable condition, there is alleged to be small room for improvement in the provisions made for their health and comfort. We take it for granted that some at least of these denunciatory letters are written by men who were witness of the sort of treatment meted out to the soldiers of the great republic in our late civil war, and have their recollections present when blaming the Prussians and other German governments for their neglect and cruelty. In fact we suspect that the writers look through purely republican eyes at the horrors and abuses which they so indignantly describe. But in none of the letters to which we refer is there any attempt to account for the phenomena. The case is, however, indirectly indicated in the contrast which they point out between the miseries of the private soldier and the perfect comfort or even splendor apparent in the appointments of the aristocratic officer. In a democratic Republic at war for its existence or the preservation of its honor, such a contrast could hardly be permitted. The officers themselves would not, could not make so selfish a use of their wealth, whether hereditary or acquired. Sensibilities cultivated under the rule of equality and free institutions, would render the constant sight of the difference intolerable to them in the midst of their ease. The necessary hardness and insensibility could have been acquired only under aristocratic institutions, where the feeling of caste prevails, with the sanction of long duration and almost divine right. No sentiment is more cruel or relentless than that of caste. The Brahmin will allow a thousand people of a lower order to die in wretchedness for the want of a little help which he could easily render, not only feeling no compassion for their condition, or remorse for his neglect, but proud of his fidelity to the principle to which he owes his own superiority. Superstition is not necessary to produce an almost equal degree of rigor in respecting the division of social ranks, an equal measure of indifference in one class to the sufferings of another. The old times in France, as everybody —insensibility of the aristocracy to —easantry was assiduous- —tivation is inevi- —of legal- —to naturally come to regard each other as enemies. Kind and liberal among themselves and accustomed to stand by one another in times of trial, the members of the higher classes by degrees cease to look upon the lower as sharing in a common humanity, and are more or less indifferent what fate befalls them; that is, any farther than a common pecuniary interest may appeal to them. Though in Europe the progress of civilization and the development of Christianity have done much to humanize society and to destroy the social relations and sentiments cherished by feudalism, not a little still remains to be achieved. Only the universal triumph of democratic republicanism will complete the reformation, and everywhere secure the practical recognition of human rights. Doubtless, the needless sufferings endured by the German soldiers in the present war, and the revelation of illimitable cold-hearted arrogant hardness of the princes and nobles, must be ranked among the causes which are destined, perhaps at no very distant date, to bring about the great revolution necessary to establish a better state of things.

PUBLIC OPINION AND CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The people of no other country are so ready and quick as Americans to change opinions, reconstruct habits and adopt new processes. That antiquarian disposition to cling to the conditions and methods of our forefathers which characterizes some of the European nations, finds in the United States very little encouragement and hardly any abiding-place. This is because we are emphatically a thinking community. And this is due in a great measure to the fact that we have so many newspapers and such rapidity of intercommunication, which supply sources of information, means of discussion and organs of expression, thus contributing to the formation of an intelligent, vigorous, powerful public opinion. Consequently there is not a prominent Congressman who is not better known to the masses of Americans than BURKE and SHERIDAN were known to the masses of Englishmen. No one arises to speak, in Senate or House at Washington, without feeling that his words are addressed to the nation as well as to the restricted audience before his eyes. He thoroughly understands that if there is anything important in his views, or ridiculous in his conduct, or demagogic in his tone, or unscrupulous in his course, it may become breakfast-table talk in every nook and corner of the Union the very next morning. If his motives are misconstrued, or his character assailed, or his attitude misrepresented, he comprehends equally well that he can easily appeal to the popular tribunal, with the utmost confidence and reliance, for an exonerating verdict and unstinted reparation. His case alone is hopeless who finds public opinion deliberately against him, meaning by public opinion, not the sum total of the various sentiments entertained on a given subject by the individuals that compose community, but that belief or conviction which results from the hearing of evidence, the scrutiny of facts, and the comparison of reasons.

In a free country like ours, recognition of this moral power, in applying principles of policy or measures of administration, is an dispensable element of successful statesmanship. The rough, strong, unsultivated thinkers, who abound in our atmosphere of unrestricted discussion *will* have their influence in determining national issues as well as the trained and accomplished reasoners of the most educated classes. If their thoughts are not polished, they are at least weighty; and not unfrequently they observe more vigilantly, meditate more deeply, and judge more correctly than men whose maturer years are passed amid the turmoil, controversies and duties of public life. It is the general habit of the ambitious politicians to be exceedingly cautious about his commitments. He declines to speak to-day on some questions of rising importance, out of fears that he may say something that will compromise his chances of promotion, or will develope a weak spot inviting attack from his enemies, or will expose him to censure or ridicule. Hence our politics are imbued no little with the spirit of diplomacy, which abounds with the generalities, phrases and circuitous methods. As a general thing, and in the long run, public men too much of that delicate tact that constantly bears in mind that there are susceptible ears which the truth cannot fail to wound, and which are not to be wounded with impunity. In all this there may be no direct departure from the path of rectitude, but there is unquestionably no little vigilant circumspection. This explains why it is that the people are so often ahead of the politicians in their views on reformatory questions.

Among the reading and thinking masses, discussion and the interchange of thought are hampered by few of the restrictions which ambition and rivalry have established in partisan circles. It is true they see every public measure through the lens of self-interest, yet this is not from a merely individual standpoint, but as one of the partners in the Republic. Whatever injures or benefits his equally injures or benefits an immense number of persons in like circumstances. If he is a farmer, he looks at the issue through agricultural spectacles; and very likely the conclusion at which he arrives is the same as that of thousands of others who till the soil. If he is a merchant, he views proposed measures of legislation with especial reference to their influence upon his branch of business; still, in doing so, it is impossible to consider his views

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FOURTH AVE. AND SMITHFIELD STREET.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, December 17, 1870.

The week has been characterized by a very close money market, bordering on actual stringency. Yesterday and to-day this condition was most severely felt. There was little or no paper discounted, and the banks were pleading scarcity of money. Of course in all such panics there are some exceptions, but the general monetary status was a great scarcity of loanable means at the banks and discount houses. The upshot, however, is expressed that there is no approach to a panic, and that the money will be forthcoming, but that in a brief period affairs will resume their wonted ease. It is remarked that notwithstanding the prevailing tightness of the market, which must necessarily have tested credits severely, that very few mercantile paper was suffered to go to protest.

Transactions in local stocks were light, consequent upon the condition of the money market. The few sales that were made showed former prices well sustained.

The great feature of the week was the sharp decline in the New York stock market, brought about by the "bear" clique in the customary way of putting a lock on the loan market. The *Financial Bulletin* of that city says:

Cotton reckless speculators have availed themselves of a period when the lawful money resources of the banks are low and the Western exchanges are against us for throwing the local loan market into a state of extreme stringency by locking up money. The *modus operandi*, in the present case, appears to have been as follows: On the 9th inst. Drew sold say $1,000,000, or rather gives him his check for that amount; R. H. gets the check certified at the bank, and puts it in his safe. Check is kept thereby prevented from lending R. D.'s deposit, and the street being deprived of the use of so much money at the moment of the settlement. This is one of the many methods adopted for producing an artificial stringency, and only one of many used. The bank involved in such an operation cannot be considered to blame; for in case of the merchandising of the depositor D. he applies that he has loaned his funds and cannot be responsible for the borrower's use of the money, which, whatever may be the suspicions of the bank as to his unbonorable complicity, must be accepted by the bank as a customer's check. The Associated Bank Examiner evidently cannot interfere to prevent the bank from using the money for the furtherance of a damaging operation, for the bank is an unwilling party thereto.

Unfortunately, speculators who lend themselves to these operations are subject to no censure from the public opinion, or from regard for business reputation. They are confident that the public will not think a wish that of the highwayman, who regards the getting of money as a justification of any means that may be employed. It is well, however, for these street brigands to remember that there is a limit to the power of a clique to derange the money market, with a view of promoting a general injury to business, as mischievous as that which the law justifies therefore to a term in the State Prison. Section 5, Tit. 6, ch. 1, part 4 of Revised Statutes provides that if two or more persons shall conspire to commit any act injurious to the public health, to public morals, or to trade or commerce, or for the purpose of perversion of justice, or the due administration of the laws, they shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Treasury disbursements were quite heavy, the principal "took-up" referred to occurred in the old Mechanics' Bank, when it is said the officers and directors were taken by surprise on finding the bank a creditor at the Clearing-house this morning for about *five-and-half millions of dollars*. They allege that while some heavy deposits were made yesterday by one or two parties—Messrs. Keenon, Fox & Co., with whom Mr. Daniel Drew is a special partner, are mentioned in this connection—their checks were drawn and certified against them. Those Checks should have appeared through the Clearing-house this morning, but it turns out they were designed for a different purpose, and having served the purpose intended to-day, the bank will probably appear on the other side of the balance sheet of the Clearing-house to-morrow morning. Whether the directors of the bank will pursue the course of their neighbors of the Gallatin Bank, in a similar case and adopt of a highly reputable institution, week before last, and forfeit their Cashier to close all such accounts on a repetition of the same, or good naturedly pass the affair over, if only to refrain from a repetition of the trouble to be seen. So far as it affects the great brokers of the street, engaged in fighting each other for the control of the stock market, they ought to take care of themselves; but such transactions are objectionable of good neighborhood, and injurious themselves, and are generally held to be a wicked wrong to the business public.

The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the past week:

	10:30 A.M.	12 M.	1 P.M.	2 P.M.	3 P.M.
December 12, 1870.					
C. & N. W.	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
C. & R. I.	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Pittsburg	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½
Rock Island	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
Ft. Wayne	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
Mich. Cent.	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Mich. S. & N. I.	85½	85½	85½	85½	85½
Illinois Cent.	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½
Cleve. & Pitts.	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
C. C. & I.	70½	70½	70½	70½	70½
Terre Haute	15½	15½	15½	15½	15½
Terre Haute pf.	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½
C. & A.	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½
Chi. & Alton	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
Chi. & Alton pf.	120½	120½	120½	120½	120½
Cleve. & Tol.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Wabash	43½	43½	43½	43½	43½
Wabash pf.	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½
Fort Wayne	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
Ohio & Miss.	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½
Pacific Mail	46½	46½	46½	46½	46½
Adams Express	69½	69½	69½	69½	69½
Gold	110½	110½	110½	110½	110½

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most part of our stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	62
Philadelphia and Erie	29½
Lehigh Navigation	53½
Catawissa preferred	37½
Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad	66
Lehigh Valley Railroad	58
North Pennsylvania Railroad	61
Cameron and Amboy Railroad	127
Susquehan Navigation	30
Reading	49¾

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, December 17, 1870.

LUMBER.—The market since our last has undergone no material change. The demand continues light, and sales were regular, principally to meet the wants of the best trade. There will probably be but few changes until after the first of the new year and dealers have made their annual settlements in regard to values. We have no reliable estimates to note and those will be found under the appropriate heads. The weather has been changeable but on the whole pleasant. Our rivers continue in fair navigable order, but not sufficient for the transportation of anything. the week's run was a large one, exceeding four millions of bushels. Flour—The market was steady with a fair trade demand. This, however, has been in addition to some limited purchases by dealers who covered their prices fifteen cents per barrel. The stock on hand is sufficient for all ordinary purposes. Bacon—Now meat is being received from smoke houses slowly. We note a fair trade demand to supply the home market. Buyers are taking hold sparingly as if their faith in the present prices being maintained was not very strong. Dressed hogs are coming in pretty freely. The same may be said of poultry, prices being regulated, however, by the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted.

APPLES.—The market was steady at prices that was current for some days. On Saturday, however, a decline appeared as the week's receipts were light. Since our last 228 barrels were received. We are reported also as having sold 60 in bulk, but we have no data to enforce note.

APPLE BUTTER.—The supply was fairly up with the demand. We note sales at 6@6½c. gallon.

ASHES.—The receipts continue liberal, the supply on the market being fully equal to the demand for pearls. We are reported sales of refined 55 ½ cent. at 7½c.; common do 50 cent, 7½c.; potash 50½ cent, 8c. per pound.

BAR LEAD.—Sales in a regular way at 8½c. per lb.

BEANS.—Regular sales reported at $2 25@2 30 per bushel.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—There is a fair supply, and we quote at $3 50@3 75 per cwt., and $4 50@4 75 per bbl.

BUTTER.—The market contains a good supply. The receipts since our last were 60 packages. Prices were but unchanged. We note sales of choice roll at 30@32c.; choice roll 28@30c.; fair to good roll 25@28c.; common and inferior 20@25c.

CHEESE.—Now cheese is being received freely from smoke houses. The cases so far have sold at 15c. per lb. Old cheese is dull and in the home trade. Prices were unquoted. Sales were reported in a jobbing way at 16@17c. per lb. Some parties in Ohio are reported as having sold 1,000 boxes to be delivered. Last—sales of new to-day at 15c. per lb. Sales of old reported at 14c. per lb.

CORN MEAL.—Market well supplied, with regular sales at 90c. per bushel.

DRIED FRUITS.—Market well supplied, with regular sales at 6@6½c. per lb. for apples and 8@8½c. for peaches.

FEATHERS.—Market well supplied, with regular sales at 60@65c. per lb.

FISH.—Mackerel—No. 1 shore, $17 per bbl.; No. 2 do, $15; No. 3 large, $13; No. 3 do, $12; No. 3 medium, $11; No. 3 small, $10; No. 2 do, $9; No. 1 do, $8. Codfish, $5 50@6 per cwt. Herring, $5 50@6 per bbl. Lake Trout, $6 per bbl. Lake Herring, $5 per bbl.

FRUIT.—Oranges—Messina, $4 50@5 per box; Palermo, $4 50@5 per box; Mediterranean sweets, $5@5 50 per box; Florida, $5@5 50 per box. Lemons—Messina, $4 50@5 per box; Palermo, $4 50@5 per box. Figs—Layers, 18@20c. per lb.; Smyrna, 15@18c. per lb. Dates—In boxes, 10@12c. per lb.; in drums, 8@9c. per lb. Raisins—Loose Muscatels, $2 50@2 75 per box; London layers, $3 50@3 75 per box; Valencias, 12@13c. per lb.

FURS.—The market has undergone no quotable change. The supply is fair for the season, and the demand, while not large, is sufficient to keep prices steady. Trappers are still busy, and the receipts of the week were 150 head. We can report no sales of importance for the week. Quotations are as follows: Raccoon, 30@35c.; Mink, 75@$1 25; Muskrat, 5@6c.; Red Fox, $1 50@2; Gray Fox, 50c.@$1; Otter, $4@5; Fisher, $4@5; Wild Cat, 25@30c.; Skunk, 10@15c.; Opossum, 5@6c.; Rabbit, 2c.; Deer Skins, 20@25c.

GRAIN.—The market for corn is steady with a moderate trade demand. The receipts since our last were 750 barrels, the principal inquiry being for ear and bright. We are reported sales of 1,000 bushels ear at 70c. in store, 800 bushels in sacks; rod white, 1,000 bushels, 90c.; 500 bushels in barrels, 92c.; 500 bushels Dakota, 90c.; 1,000 bushels in barrels, 95c.; 1,000 bushels Wisconsin, 95c.; 500 bushels, 96c.; 500 bushels Minnesota, 96c.; 500 bushels, 97c.; 500 bushels, 98c.; 500 bushels, 99c.; 500 bushels, 99½c.; 500 bushels, 99½c.; 500 bushels, 99½

The Daily Commercial.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Standard Sheetings and Prints—McElroy, Dickson & Co.
Hats, Caps and Ladies' Furs—E. H. Palmer.
Spectacles Sweeping—Dr. White, Over 65.
Holiday Goods for Gentlemen—Putnam's.
Salesmen Wanted—746 Fifth avenue.
Pittsburgh Commission House—Henry Rea, Jr.
Young Men's Jewelry—Look Box 83, Franklin, Pa.
Barrel Pickles—Raymer & Bros.
——for Prussia—Chas. Abel & Co.
Holiday Books—S. A. Clarke & Co.
Pennsylvania Military Academy—Reopens January 4.
Building Lots for Sale—D. S. Williams.
Election—First National Bank.
Opera House—The Little Detective.
Trimble's Variation Engine—Look Box 83, Franklin, Pa.
Mercantile Library Lectures—R. J. DeCordova.
Free Concert—Rooms Y. M. C. A.
Academy of Music—European Novelties.
Teas, Flour, Coffee, Cheese—T. C. Jenkins & Bro.
Homewood Residences for Sale—Wollen Bros.
Homewood Residences for Sale—Wollen Bros.
Gloves Found—Commercial office.
Barnett's Kalliston.
Ferrophosphorated Elixir of Calisaya.
Christmas Presents—Evans' Spoon Stand.
Evans' Spoon and Fork Stand.
Fur and Hat Store—Wm. Fleming.
Elegant China Sets—E. H. Bond & Co.
Furniture Close, Schoenneck & Co.
Merchant Tailors—W. D. Duffey & Co.
Aerated Oxygen—Moore's Patent.
Cracker Bread—98 and 903 Liberty street.
Clothing Uating, Follansbee & Co.
Bronze Mantel Sets, &c.—Bailey & Co.
Wax Tree—Dilworth, Harper & Co.
Administrator's Notice—F. M. Still.
Pittsburgh Nickel Plating Works.
Houses, Lots, Farms, &c., for Sale—Croft & Phillips.
Residence for Sale—A. W. Loomis.
Belting and Hose for Sale—Hartley, McKee & Co.
Mortgages Wanted—Thos. M. K. Petty.
Bridal Rose—Bailey & Co.
Wine of Life—Warner's.
Bankers—S. Holmes & Sons.
Architect—T. D. Evans.

RAILWAYS.

DAYTON MINERAL REGION RAILROAD.

CINCINNATI, December 15.—The Dayton, Ohio, Mineral Region Railroad has filed its certificate. The proposed road runs through Montgomery, Greene, Clark, Madison, Fayette, Franklin, Pickaway, Fairfield, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Guernsey, Monroe and Belmont, to Bellair. The capital is two and one half millions dollars.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

BALTIMORE, December 17.—The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company disclaim any knowledge of the report sent from New York last night, that the company had designated its seat representatives to the proposed railroad convention at Erie, Pennsylvania. The company have not been represented at any convention of trunk lines in five years, and has taken no new action in regard to representation at any convention.

CHANGE OF GAUGE OF THE GREAT WESTERN.

TORONTO, December 17.—The change of gauge of the track on the Great Western Railroad, between this city and Hamilton, commenced this morning and has been completed. A train left at 2:30 for Hamilton.

A CONTROVERSY SETTLED.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—Attorney General Akerman, in a lengthy decision in regard to the Pacific Railroad, says that the Government may retain the entire amount of compensation for services rendered it by the Company, applying the same to the interest paid by the Company. Should such interest shall have been repaid by the Company, and in that event one half the compensation for such services may be reserved and applied to the principal of the bonds.

BEAVER, PA.

Improvements—Sabbath School Convention—Closing Exercises of Seminary and Institute—Lecture Course of Young Men's Christian Associations, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

BEAVER, December 17, 1870.

We need to speak of Beaver as a staid and "finished town," but since the erection of fine churches and an elegant business block on one corner of our Diamond, and the enclosing of our beautiful public squares, we think that we have a new "lease of life," and almost feel like giving that title to some of our villiors more pretending neighbors. This week has been quite an eventful one. For two days the County Sabbath School Association was in session, presided over by Rev. D. P. Lowrie, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and participated in by Rev. W. H. Locke, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Revs. Shields, of Bridgewater, Smith, of Freedom, Wilson, of this place, Angier, of North Sewickley, and others of the clergy; and large audiitions were passed commending the cause specially to the pastors and older members of our churches. I may say that the Sunday Schools in these towns are very good. Some of them, I am satisfied, would not suffer by comparison with your city schools. Free use of maps and the blackboard is made in several of them.

Thursday evening the hall of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, one of Fulton's best, weighing near three thousand pounds, and the finest in size and beautiful lecture room of this Church to witness the closing exercises of a special commercial tute connected so efficiently for so many years by Prof. R. T. Taylor, now recognized as one of our most careful and efficient educators. These entertainments are always instructive and popular, and this of which we speak was no exception, as was clear from the reputation of the Institution in this respect.

The exercises were opened with a fine duet by the Misses Coon, of Ohioville. The singing was artistic and tastefully executed. Of the other instrumental pieces we name as deserving of special commendation a solo by Miss Jones, of Webster; La Source, by Miss Richardson, of Tiltonsville; Souvenir de Purim, by Miss Ella McCreery, of Beaver; and a Polka de Concert composition, very brilliant and showy, by Miss Nettie Barker, of Brighton. Also, a duet of Wallenhamp's by Miss Beacon; the Bells, by Miss Mamie Holmes, the daughter of Rev. Dr. Holmes, of Sewickley. A number of young ladies reserves much credit by the simple and hearty rendering of their pieces. "Rest thou but know," by Belle, was well rendered by Miss Ollie Campbell, of Bridgewater, and "Lucie Arette," Kellogg Waltz, by Miss Susie May, of Tionesta.

We ought to say that the vocal department is under the care of the excellent wife of the Principal, and shows her skill in developing and training the voice. Prof. Benner and his lady won much by their duett, "Overture to Fra Diavolo," and the Professor is one of the comparatively few teachers that keeps up his practice, so that he can show his pupils how a piece should be executed.

The first essay, by Miss Clara Hunter, of Tionesta, "The Slavery of Habit," was well written and well read production. Miss Emma Roberts, of this place, read a very carefully prepared essay on "Appearance Contrasted with Reality," which was good, but Miss Linnie Richardson, of Tidioute, was highly appreciated both for the matter, style and manner of reading. The piece entitled "Wanted, a Minister's Wife," was admirably recited by seven young misses, and was deservedly applauded. Miss Shiel's address to Time was declaimed in a spirited and forcible manner by Mr. H. S. McConnel, of Erieground. Mr. Oscar Grant, of Rochester, entertained and convulsed the audience by his recital of "Josh Billings on Matrimony."

Time closed the fall term of this institution, which we feel is deserving of extensive patronage; and we are happy to learn that it enjoys a better class of patrons now more of them than during the session just closed. The next session opens on Monday, January, 1871, thus giving the opportunity for pupils to enjoy the holidays at home without breaking in upon the studies of the term. We bespeak for it a full attendance. We wish your city readers who have occasion to send their children from home would make the acquaintance of Professor Taylor and his excellent school.

The Young Men's Christian Association of this city have arranged for a course of lectures, to commence after the holidays with several gentlemen from your city and suburbs are on the list.

STATE NEWS.

Deer shooting ceases to-day.

The Jefferson county teachers' institute will meet on Monday next.

Erie county has 66,000 inhabitants. Seventy-six years ago there was not a single white family there.

The Masons of Mercer will have a reunion and supper on St. John's night.

Hon. Wm. Strong has been chosen President of the Social Science Association of Philadelphia for the ensuing year.

De Cordova lectures in Sharon to-morrow evening.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Northeast, Erie county, are going to procure a library.

A dictionary of "Pennsylvania Dutch" is being prepared by a gentleman of the Lancaster press.

The Odd Fellows of Bellevernon have bought a lot, and propose to build a fine hall for the use of their order.

The Mercer *Dispatch* will appear with new type about the first of January.

The Erie county teachers' institute commences its annual session at Corry to-day.

Violets and dandelions were in bloom in the neighborhood of Connellsville last week.

John C. Smith, long resident Clerk of the House, at Harrisburg, has gone into the restaurant business at Robensburg, Center county.

A board of trade is talked of in Lebanon borough.

A Doylestown attorney refused to defend a fellow named Landis, on trial for horse-stealing, because the latter had written to Philadelphia to procure evidence to acquit him, who is talked of as the Republican candidate for Judge of the district.

The new steel rolling mill at South Bethlehem, when completed, will be one thousand feet long. The wings are about two hundred feet in length. One of the stacks has been put into position, being 124 feet in height.

Some of the public spirited young men of Lebanon propose establishing a reading room in that place.

A. J. Hartzell, of Newport, left his home on the 22d ult., and has since not been heard of. He took a boat load of coal for Baltimore when he disappeared. He is about thirty-five years of age, six feet four inches in height and has dark hair and whiskers. Fears are entertained that he has been foully dealt with. Persons seeing him will confer a favor by communicating with Mrs. A. L. Hartzell, Newport, Pa.

Mrs. Cressman, of Northumberland, aged ninety-four years, makes her living by knitting and fancy sewing. There is not a lady in the town who can compete with her for the needle work. She enjoys the best of health, and is a regular attendant as church. She distinctly remembers hearing the renowned Dr. Priestly preach. She came to Northumberland in the year 1803.

The Universalist Church at Wellsburg, Erie county, having been repaired and refitted, was dedicated yesterday.

An old ordinance, requiring all places where liquors are sold, including hotels, is to be enforced in Titusville.

A mother and daughter were arrested at Tiffonte last week for shoplifting. They were professional experts, having receptacles for the stolen goods sewed inside their dresses.

The suits brought against the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, by the Avondale widows, to recover the $20,000 subscribed by the company, but never paid in yet, have been withdrawn. The company will pay the amount of the subscription immediately.

New Castle has a new society called the "Lamp Lighters." Chief object, drinking beer.

Wendell Phillips and James Parton will lecture in Franklin in January.

There are said to be four millionaires in Harrisburg.

A widow lady named Mrs. Spencer, eighty years of age, living in Branch township, Wyoming county, met with a horrible death on the 10th inst. She was smoking a pipe, which set fire to her clothes, and she was found by the family, still in her chair, burned to a crisp.

The people of Towanda, Bradford county, have raised over $30,000 during the past year for charitable and public objects. Good for a small town.

John Peck, one of the pioneers of Luzerne county, died very suddenly on Thursday, at his residence in Pockville. He was seventy-six years old.

There were shipped from Slatington during the week ending the 10th, 402 squares of roofing slate, fifteen cases of sheathing slate, three cases of blackboard slates and thirty-nine cases of mantel slate. From Treichler's Station there were shipped 205 squares of roofing slate.

The poor of Reading are supplied with soup by the Relief Society.

Rev. James A. Dunn, a Catholic priest, writes to the Titusville *Herald*, saying the "Anathema Maranatha," purported to have been uttered and promulgated by Pius IX. against King Victor Emanuel of Italy, is a forgery, taken from the "Tristram Shandy" of Sterne. The *Herald* explains that it took it from "the Pittsburgh Commercial," and gave it out in full—but more than a degree of ill, and with the suspicion that it was "a sell." We republished the anathema from the Philadelphia *Post*, which vouched for its genuineness.

A meeting of the French and Irish residents of the oil regions will be held in Bascom's Hall, Oil City, to-night, to raise funds in aid of the French sufferers by the war.

Mary De Benneville Brown has written a short time given $10,000 to various charities of Philadelphia, including $1,000 to each of the four principal hospitals in that city.

Lots in Harrisburg which ten years ago sold for $90, are now in demand at $1,200 each.

The Shenango Presbytery will meet in Sharon at 10 a. m. to-morrow.

There is a project on foot to erect two furnaces and a rolling mill either at Carlisle or Mount Holly. The gentlemen agitating the matter propose to raise a joint stock company with a capital of half a million of dollars, and to locate the works at the place which offers the greatest inducements. A strong rivalry exists in the two places on the subject.

Henry A. Mish was found dead in Harrisburg Friday morning. His death was caused by exposure to the weather. He was a drinking man.

A large gas well was struck on the grounds of the Erie Car Company on Saturday, the waste gas of which ignites several squares of Erie. The city is now illuminated nightly by waste gas. Over thirty wells have been sunk, and all have struck large veins of gas.

A. B. Richmond, of Meadville, contemplates the erection of a museum building eighty-five by ninety feet, the second story of which will be arranged for a lecture hall, capable of seating 1,000 persons. The materials to be used in the building are brick and iron.

There are at present about two hundred and twenty-five students in Lafayette College, Easton. All excepting twenty-five are either professors of religion or have become interested in the revival now in progress in that college. Of these, those remaining thirty-nine, only one remains to make some exhibition of his interest in religion.

Lung diseases cause sixty-five per cent. of the deaths in Philadelphia, it is said.

Lafayette College was the first college in the country to establish a distinct professorship for the philological study of the English language.

A fire in Meneweville, Schuylkill county, Friday, destroyed two houses and a barn.

The scarlet fever and diphtheria, lately prevented in Pottsville, have assumed a milder type.

On the 11th inst. Mrs. Yost, of Letterkenny township, Franklin county, committed suicide by taking arsenic. Her father, Mr. Sherman, hung himself some months after.

Near Tamaqua, on the 8th inst., a girl of fifteen year, named Kate Matthews, kindled a fire with kerosene. The fire burned nicely, and her funeral took place the next day.

The Perry county *Democrat* says: On Tuesday morning Thomas J. Boyer, of this borough, was arrested by Sheriff Rinehart, on a warrant issued by John M. Snyder, Esq., charging him with causing the death of his father, mother, brother and sister by administering to them chloroform, or some other poisonous drug and having then fired the dwelling to conceal his heinous crime; and also of having forged the name of Wesley Darlington, his father-in-law, to a note for $25, payable to A. S. Whitekettle; and also the name of his father to two notes given for Perry county Bonds, of special issue, for $100; also the name of his father to another note given to Wilson Darlington and I. B. Cooper for $125. Public opinion having demanded an explanation, District Attorney B. F. McEntire made information against the two persons charged with the crime, and before Esquire Shuler who committed him to prison to await his trial.

OHIO NEWS.

Seventy new houses have been built in Bellaire during the past year, costing over $70,000.

The Smithsonville *Advertiser* suggests Hon. Wm. S. Groesbeck for Governor.

Flax culture is profitable. Mr. A. Sherman, of Morrow county, sold $2,000 worth of seed from three acres of ground. The straw will nearly pay for the cultivation of the crop.

The pay rolls of the manufacturing establishments of Bellaire foot up $50,000 per month.

A boy named Smythe, residing near Adamsville, was accidentally shot on the 10th inst. The ball entered fastened around his wrist. The colt got frightened, and dragged the boy several times around the field, causing his death.

Clevelanders are endeavoring to raise a fund for the permanent endowment of Western Reserve College, with good prospects of success.

An Ashtabula preacher drew a large attendance on a recent Sabbath by announcing previously that on that occasion a marriage ceremony would be performed. He prepared a sermon in which he united the "loaf and the fishes," the "wise and foolish virgins," and other Scriptural matter, and then, after having grumbled that he had been guilty of false pretenses,

Capt. Alexander Coffin, an "old Nantucket whaler," and for many years a resident of Ravenna, died there December 7th, of cancer, at the age of eighty years.

The congregational Charge at Charleston, Portage county, has secured the services of Rev. H. V. Hitchcock, son of the President of Western Reserve College. He preached his first sermon there on the 27th ult.

The Salem Coal and Iron Company have at last reached a thirty-inch vein of coal, at the depth of 197 feet below the surface, which is said to be of a very superior quality. The waste gas of the company's furnaces is now utilized for the purpose of raising an additional depth of thirty-nine feet, where is said to lay a larger and better vein of coal.

The Mansfield reunion will not affect their annual reunion at Mansfield to-morrow (Tuesday.)

Mr. Schwentzer, formerly in the hardware business in Canton, and now in the same business in New York, has recently been awarded the contract for the manufacture of box checks, a man named Bondelle, a native of Louisville, Ohio, and another named Ferguson. They obtained by false entries, forged checks, and are free from prison for the time being.

A farmer in Perry county recently undertook to induce his wife to convey her property to him, by persuading that she had been left a fortune by some unknown heir arrest. A Justice of the Peace refused to officiate, however, because the deed would be illegal on account of threats. The husband imprudently recovered.

A pair of elk horns, measuring four feet long and nine inches broad at the tips, was found imbedded in the mud in Newell's Lake, in Logan county, a few days since.

The tobacco crop in Montgomery, Butler and Warren counties was never so good as the present year. It is universally in excellent condition, and has cured admirably.

Col. D. C. Richmond, in his report before the Horticultural meeting in Urbana, reported the wine crop of Sandusky and the inland region at 1,500,000 gallons, and table grapes at 1,600 tons. The reports from various sections of the State showed that the year has been a very favorable one for fruit growers.

At Huron the fish business has been unusually successful during the past season, about 12,000 packages having been shipped. The largest catch at one haul is seventeen hogsheads.

A young lady named Leonora Lett fell in a well twenty-four feet deep and containing four feet of water, in Muskingum county, a few days ago, and, strange to say, was rescued from death unharmed.

John H. Schenck, who settled in Butler county early in the present century, died last week at the age of ninety-one.

The extraordinary richness of the mineral deposits of Perry county has long been known to scientific men, but little effort has hitherto been made to utilize the gifts of nature. A company has lately been formed, however, and will at once begin work in the mines, and the proprietors are most sanguine of large returns.

Edmund Johnston, of Sennecaville, Guernsey county, aged seventy-nine, walked from the county seat to his home, a distance of ten miles, a few days since.

A lead mine is said to have been discovered near Middletown, Butler county, which gives rich surface indications.

The Alumni Association of the Wesleyan Female College, of Cincinnati, are making efforts to raise $50,000, with which to endow a chair in their college, the incumbent of which is always to be selected from their number.

James Phillips got drunk in Lima, spent the night in the lock-up, and started home the next day with three jugs of whisky. He drove the wagon off a small bridge over a ditch, and, falling under it, was drowned in a few inches of water.

CITY MATTERS.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD.

Observations Made by the Storm Signal Service of the United States Army.

PITTSBURGH, December 18, 1870.	7:23 A. M.	4:23 P. M.	11:23 P. M.
Height of barometer	29.50	29.52	30.36
Change since last report	.00	.02	.05
Thermometer	30°	32°	31°
Change in last 24 hours	-4°	2°	1°
Direction of wind	W	W	S
Velocity of wind—miles per hour	7	7	3
Force of wind—pressure per square foot	2	2	1
Force of wind, reduced to Beaufort scale, approximately	C	B	B
Rainfall since last report—inches and hdths	.....	.....	.....
State of weather	Cldy.	Cldy.	Cldy

NOTE—The barometer is corrected for temperature, elevation and instrumental error.

NOTES.—In the telegraphic reports, only the variations of the barometer since the last report are given; decrease being marked by —, and the figures in the table by the minus sign.

Character of the winds to save space, is indicated by letters of the alphabet, as follows: A, just perceptible; B, gently brisk; C, pleasant brisk; D, very brisk; E, high winds; G, very high winds; G, [illegible]; H, violent gale; I hurricane; J, most violent hurricane.

State of the weather, in the same way, is indicated by numerals as follows: 1, clear; 2, fair; 3, light rain; 4, heavy rain; 5, snow.

JAMES WEST, Observer Sergeant.

List of Unmailable Letters.

The following is a list of letters held at the Pittsburgh Postoffice for want of pre-payment of postage, and on account of misdirection. The writers can get them by applying at the Postoffice:

	Cents.
Arens, Miss Jennie, Pottstown, Pa.	3
Avenue, Miss Ellen, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	3
McDowell, James R., Dunbar, Pa.	3
Springer, Charles, McKeesport, Pa.	3

Pittsburgh, December 18, 1870.

BENNETT'S Cologne is the best made in America. tf

GOLD-HEADED canes, silver and plated ware, at Boyd's & Hoyle's, 6 Wylie street.

REMOVED.—The pole erected last campaign, at Seventh and Penn streets has been removed.

TILE ROBBER.—The till of the St. Charles Hotel was robbed of twenty or fourteen dollars on Saturday.

CHARTERED RAILROAD.—The public should bear in mind this road is to be opened for travel to Cannonsburg to-day.

NEWSPAPER CHANGE.—Dr. Meisenthalgen has resigned his position as writing editor on the *Freiheits Freund*, and Von Der Hoehl, late of the *Volksblatt*, is now filling the position.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.—A young man, relative of a Market street merchant, whom the latter took into the business, but, as character, it is stated, has been removed for having embezzled about $200 of the merchant's funds. No names.

A GREAT SAVING OF TIME AND MONEY.—Labels guaranteed, cut and ready for immediate use for dress goods, hardware and dry goods men. Also, labels of small goods and everybody. For samples call at 77 Fourth avenue, or send to Harris & Co., Bucyrus, Ohio.

BILLIARDS.—Richard Ennis and James Sumerton played a match game of billiards at Greenaburg on Friday night, with two professional players of that place. The Pittsburghers won by 200 points in a game of 1,000. Mr. Ennis made the last run.

MASONIC ELECTION.—The officers elected by Solomon Lodge No. 231 are as follows:

W. M., John Roth, Sr.; S. W., Geo. W. Backofen; J. W., H. Kimbel; Secretary, G. W. Schindeberg; Treasurer, Dr. J. C. Zwinger; Manager M. C., C. F. George W. Backofen.

STUPENDOUS TOBACCO FRAUDS.

Arrest of a Major General for Defrauding the Revenue—Important Developments Forthcoming.

Some time ago, James J. Brooks, United States Revenue Detective, who was shot and almost killed in Philadelphia, while attempting to make a seizure, while working up a case in New York, discovered a shipment of fraudulent tobacco through Gen. John Embree, whose factory and store were in the county of Montgomery and Green streets, Jersey City. Among the rest were thirty-seven barrels shipped to parties in the Western District of Pennsylvania, principally in Luzerne county. These barrels contained counterfeit stamps and stamps which had been used before. An indictment was found against Embree at Williamsport, in September last, and a process was issued for his arrest. He was taken into custody and brought to this city. As he presented a very genteel appearance, was known as a Major General of Volunteers, and served with distinction all through the war, having been wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, and as he was known to military officers here as a good soldier, he was released on consideration that in ten days he would send a recognizance, with bail for his appearance at the April term of Court. The time expired, and the recognizance was not sent.

District Attorney Sweeney then issued a bench warrant for his arrest, and sent it to Officer Harry Lee, formerly Chief of Police under Mayor Conrad, of Philadelphia. The officer found the General at Jersey City, and arrested with him here on Saturday. Finding himself unable to get bail here, he telegraphed to various friends, in different parts of the country, but without eliciting an answer. He was then committed to jail, and as the prison doors closed upon him he was heard to exclaim:

Embree is said to be an old offender. He started his brother, William Embree, in business as a tobacco manufacturer, at Keyport, New Jersey, two years ago, and a sloop load of tobacco, fresh from his factory, was seized by the Government with fraudulent stamps on the packages. When the General was first arrested, he had had some intimation of the visit of the officers, and quietly destroyed a number of his books. In his waste basket were found the stubs of checks, drawn to fictitious names, entries of business transactions extending into August, 1870. Specimens of the cloths are in Mr. Hooper's possession. Mr. Brooks, who is now in this city, has been secreting a box under some goods, which, on examination, is found to contain a large quantity filled with stamps which had been used and removed from tobacco packages.

The establishment in New York, from which the fraudulent tobacco came through Ramsey into this district, was noticed by the Government, and has been suppressed for some time. It is said that the trial, which will take place in February next, will develop one of the most stupendous tobacco frauds which has been perpetrated since the law was enacted.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

A Man and Horse Killed and Buggy Smashed at the Wilkinsburg Crossing by a Ballast Train of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Allen Ramsey, a peddler, residing in the Ninth ward, met with an accident on Saturday evening at the crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad on Friday evening which resulted in his death on Saturday morning. He had been to Wilkinsburg on business and was returning about six o'clock in a buggy. While passing over the crossing at Wilkinsburg, a ballast train, backing towards the city, of the approach of which Mr. Ramsey was entirely unaware, struck and demolished the buggy, killed the horse, and threw Mr. Ramsey from the wreck to the track, where the train passed over him, cutting off both legs and fracturing his skull in a terrible manner. He was removed as quickly as possible to the residence of Squire Shields, at Wilkinsburg, where Dr. Hammond was summoned. From the first the case was thought hopeless by the latter, and at an early hour Saturday morning death came to the relief of the unfortunate man. The injured man before expiring stated that he heard no whistle, nor other signal on the train which struck him, and in the darkness he could not see it. He leaves a wife and two daughters. Coroner West held an inquest on the remains on Saturday. The testimony adduced on the inquest showed that the men on the ballast train had given no signal of its approach, either by flagging or whistling, and the jury returned the following verdict:

"The jury find that Allen Ramsey came to his death on Saturday, December 17, 1870, by the train struck by the tender of a ballast train at the public crossing at Wilkinsburg on the Pennsylvania Railroad, through negligence on the part of the engineer in charge, never in not having the proper head-lights placed on said engine, which should be used in the night and we, the jury, would recommend the said authorities of the said Pennsylvania Railroad Company to place a watch or watchman at the crossing for the protection of lives and the property of the traveling public." The train was managed by the time of fifteen miles an hour when the accident happened. The horse and buggy belonged to Rody Patterson.

THE KNIFE.

Stabbing Affray in a Livery Stable.

Before Mayor Brush, on Sunday morning, appeared Wm. McCallister, who made an information before charging John Mason with feloniously assault and battery. The difficulty occurred at McEnnily's livery stable on Third avenue. McCallister had been using a shovel with which to clean out a pen belonging to Mason, and the result was a fight, which came near proving fatal to McCallister. They rolled around among the horses feet for some time, but were finally dragged from the floor by parties present. Mason, with other employees, named Scandrett, caught hold of Mason and pulled him away from his smaller opponent, but in an instant he broke away with a knife and cut and run let me go, or I'll cut the wizen out of you," he brushed aside and struck at Mason, cutting him in the back and arm. He was finally taken off, and the police called in, who conducted him to the watch-house. McCallister was taken to the mayor's office, and he was removed to his boarding house up Fourth avenue, where Dr. Hammond, the city physician, attended him. He received a very serious nature, but will say him up for some time. Mason had a hearing and was committed for trial.

ELEGANT HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—Messrs. J. R. Weldin & Co. are now offering to their patrons the largest variety of books in fine binding, elegant stationery, fancy articles, etc., to be found in the city. The goods are selected with great care from fresh stocks, and are free from old stock. They have also more prominent and desirable articles for holiday gifts are Family Bibles, Pocket Bibles, Webster's Unabridged, gilt edge, Webster's Pocket Dictionaries, gilt edge, card cases, diaries, pen wipers, bronze inkstands, gilt cups and saucers, gold pen holders and pencils, backgammon boards, writing desks, portfolios, portfolios, English toy books, and an endless variety of books, gilt and plain, for Sunday schools, and standard works in history, fiction, etc. There is a large and convenient assortment of fancy gift books. Call at No. 101 Wood street.

CHRISTMAS AT THE ACADEMY.—The little folks enjoy the performances at the Academy of Music on all occasions. But they will enjoy the entertainment to be given next Monday afternoon doubly, as the manager, Mr. Beamer, in his kindness of heart, intends to give each one who will attend a present and a Christmas gift. During his recent visit to New York city he laid out over $500 in holiday goods of various sorts, from the cheap style, at 50c, per doz., to be given away. He has also purchased two hundred tickets, at 25c. each, for the matinee on Monday. The shelf expect to see the Academy crowded to overflowing with the coming men and women of Pittsburgh next Monday.

AQUATIC.—The boating men to the number of fifteen met at Hamil & Hardy's on Saturday night, to take such action as will make the next boating season here interesting. It is proposed to organize the regular boat clubs into a boating association, and which came to such an untimely end, who will regulate matters and arrange a programme for the coming season. Another meeting will be held at the same place next Saturday evening.

WENT UP.—John Killinger wanted officer Graham to drink with him Saturday night; he refused, whereupon John "went for" him in real pugilistic style. He was arrested and locked up and in default of a fine of $20 and costs, went to the workhouse for thirty days. Andrew Reisch, was arrested on complaint of his daughter and wife of habitual drunkenness. He was adjudged guilty and sentenced to sixty days imprisonment in the workhouse.

NO PRESENT EQUAL TO IT.—If you search the whole range of holiday gifts, what present can you find equal to an Improved Singer Sewing Machine? Nothing could be more acceptable to your wife or sister as a memento of the donor. Have you a wife, mother, sister, or sweetheart, or some other lady friend, whose happiness you desire to make? Your heart would be gladdened by such a gift? If so, go to the agents, Messrs. Gray & Mason, who have a large stock on hand at No. 20 Sixth street.

ACCIDENT TO THE CORONER.—Coroner West yesterday morning left his home on Wylie avenue for the purpose of holding the inquest on the South Side, reported elsewhere. He had not proceeded far before he stepped and fell, striking his right arm with the back of his head. He also broke his artificial leg, and sustained a severe contusion of his right arm. He was removed to his home, when he deputized Alderman Nubert to hold the inquest.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY LECTURES.—The fourth lecture of the course given under the auspices of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association, will be delivered at Library Hall this evening, by R. J. DeCordova. The subject chosen, "Mrs. Grundy," will no doubt prove a fruitful theme for the display of Mr. DeCordova's well known powers of humor. No seats will be reserved, and it will be necessary to go early to secure choice of places.

THE HARTUNG CASE.—In the case of Otto Hartung, bankrupt, the United States Court on Saturday, ordered an assignee to be appointed, and on the recommendation from the Commissioner in Bankruptcy, Mr. Harper, who was appointed to inquire into the facts connected with the case. What it was he did, and what items, if any, existed against it.

GOT HIS DESERTS.—John Moffitt was before Mayor Brush on Saturday morning, upon the oath of officer Kendall, who deposed that Moffitt was engaged ringing the door bells of several houses at an early hour Saturday morning, and when he remonstrated with him defendant knocked him down. He paid $20 25. Porter Ensney, for abusing officer Glynn, paid a like amount.

TAVERN ROBBED.—At an early hour yesterday morning a thief entered McCartney's tavern, on Penn avenue, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets, and stole a lot of whisky, pork, etc. McCartney invited Alderman Richardson to breakfast, and suspected a party residing not far from the tavern of the theft. The latter was arrested, obtained him for larceny. A search warrant was issued.

BRACELETS and jewelry of all descriptions at Boyd's & Hoyle's, No. 6 Wylie street.

NEW CLOTHING HOUSE.—It is rumored that Mr. Wannmaker, the great clothier of Philadelphia, has rented the store-rooms in Carr's new building on Fifth avenue, and will open a clothing house on the plan of his Eastern establishment. Mr. Wannmaker has the reputation of selling good wearing apparel very cheap, and would no doubt put our merchants on their mettle.

GOOD SAMARITAN.—Bridget McMorris, a "vag" of long standing, visited the lock-up at an early hour on Sunday morning, and was playing the good Samaritan by furnishing the prisoners a "drop of the crayture," when she was detected and locked up. Thirty days in jail was the sentence of His Honor, the Mayor.

KNOCKED A WOMAN INTO THE GUTTER.—Henry Neeland became enraged on Saturday evening because officer McGrady would not loan him his cap and meeting a respectable lady soon after shoved her into the gutter. He was arrested, and on Sunday morning contributed $10 and costs to the Mayor's fund.

AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE, &C.—We invite particular attention to the advertisement in another column of C. Otto Hartung's Assignee, Property situated at Glenfern Station, Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, Kilbuck (late Ohio) township.

INSPECTION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—It was announced Saturday, at the conclusion of the McElroy investigation, that there would be an inspection of the Fire Department on Tuesday, at three o'clock. The men will appear in new uniforms, and will make an exceedingly handsome display.

LIGHTED BY GAS.—Thursday evening last, the new gas works in McKeesport having been completed, the experiment of lighting the town was tried with the most satisfactory results. The works have been entirely completed and it is expected that by to-night, all the streets and buildings as well will be lighted.

ARM BROKEN.—Felix Murray, ten years of age, fell from a cart on Webster avenue on Saturday evening, breaking his right arm and dislocating his wrist. Dr. Donnelly attended him.

THE MAYOR'S LEVIES.—The Mayor had twenty-one common cases before him on Saturday morning, and twenty-five yesterday. All were appropriately disposed of.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ACQUITTED.

The Commissioners Declare that He Deserves Neither Dismissal nor Censure.

The Fire Commissioners met at three o'clock, Saturday afternoon, to hear the arguments of counsel who had been conducting the investigation into the charges preferred by Messrs. Wortmser, Myers & Co. against Chief Engineer McElroy.

Mr. Cohen made the opening speech, speaking about twenty minutes. He reviewed the testimony, and held that not one of the charges preferred had been sustained. He further claimed that the prosecution—or rather prosecutors—had been instigated by a clique or ring, who wished to have the Chief Engineer discharged or dismissed from his office. They had signally failed, however, to blacken his reputation. On the other hand he came out of the investigation unblemished, and with a record for efficiency which was highly creditable to him.

Mr. Cohen followed in a very able speech, taking the ground that the investigation had been conducted in the interest of the public, and not with a view to injure the Engineer. He recapitulated the facts as testified to by the witnesses, and claimed that the evidence on all the charges had been fully sustained. The Chief himself, under oath, admitted that he had threatened to slap the face of a citizen who had asked him for a stream of water, and it was for the Commission to say whether he was deserving of censure for that act or not. He believed the Commission would not dismiss the complainants without recognizing the justness of their grievances, and censuring the Engineer for his unwarrantable acts and misconduct.

The room was then cleared, and the Commissioners, after a short deliberation, announced the following

JUDGMENT.

The Fire Commissioners of the city of Pittsburgh, having carefully investigated and considered the charges preferred by Messrs. Wormser, Meyers & Co., and others, against Jno. McElroy, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, do unanimously declare that that officer does not appear to them to have, by his conduct upon the occasion of the fire referred to in said charges, deserved the punishment of censure; but that, on the contrary, we believe that, in the exercise of a wise judgment, he did endeavor faithfully and promptly perform all his duties to the best of his ability.

HENRY HAYS, Chairman,
ROBERT FINNEY,
ROBERT W. MACKEY,
JOHN H. MCELROY,
WM. MCKELVEY,
M. K. MOORHEAD,
WM. A. HERRON,
JOHN H. STEWART,
JOHN J. TOOLEY,
Commissioners.

We may state that an entire acquittal was anticipated by nine-tenths of those who heard the case. Some were of the opinion that the Chief would be reprimanded for threatening to slap Mr. Moore, since he admitted himself that he had been guilty of indiscretion in that. But the Commissioners doubtless regarded the provocation as sufficient to excuse, if not justify this remark, and declined to censure him at all. The testimony fully sustained all the material allegations, and the Commission could not have justly given a different decision.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Sterrett.

VERDICT.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Isaac Gibber, charged with receiving stolen goods, the jury found a verdict of guilty, and he was remanded into the mercy of the Court. A motion was made for a new trial and the accused was released on bail.

SURETIES.

Patrick O'Donnell, charged with surety of the peace, on oath of Francis Quinn, was called for a hearing. Quinn testified that O'Donnell threatened to "bust his head in with a shovel." Defendant sentenced to pay costs, and give bail in $300.

John Collins, charged with a similar offense, on oath of the same prosecutor. In this case Quinn testified that defendant threatened to "chop his blasted head off." A similar sentence was imposed.

FIFTH AVENUE EXTENSION.

Messrs. Hampton and Dalzell, attorneys for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, asked the Court to grant a rule on the Clerks of Select and Common Councils of the city of Pittsburgh, to be held severally to certify to the Court all papers and proceedings in the matter of the opening of Fifth avenue extension. The Court granted the rule.

CHARGE OF ABANDONMENT WITHDRAWN.

Jonathan Lowe, charged with abandonment on oath of Mrs. Mary Ann Middleton, his wife, having withdrawn the prosecution.

THREATENING TO KILL.

Nicholas and Charles Engler were called to answer a charge of threatening to kill Valentine Vinegart. The prosecutor testified that the defendants came to his house Sunday morning, and told him that they "wanted to kill that one-eyed man." As he was the only one-eyed man about the house, he concluded they meant him, and made the information. Sentenced to pay costs and give bail in $500 for good behavior.

TO PAY COSTS.

Matthew Cullen, charged with breach of the peace, on oath of Richard Fare, was ordered to pay the costs.

WIFE DESERTION.

Henry Weisner was called to answer a charge of having deserted his wife. The parties were married in Ohio, and soon became at variance. The wife left Henry left his wife to shift for herself. The husband is only twenty-one, while the wife is but nineteen, and the latter has a child by a former husband. He is but as he did not make much money he could not keep her in style. He was willing to do so with such accommodations as he could supply, all right. She expressed a willingness to "take the chances," and the defendant left her to "root, hog or die," to see if he would make good his promises.

FAILED TO ANSWER.

The case of Peregrine Fitzsimmons with threatening to "knock the brains out" of Mrs. E. F